

## § 750.48

value of any salvaged parts or materials and the amount of any net appreciation in value effected through the repair shall be deducted from the actual or estimated gross cost of repairs. The amount of any net depreciation in the value of the property shall be added to such gross cost of repairs, if such adjustments are sufficiently substantial in amount to warrant consideration. Estimates of the cost of repairs shall be based upon the lower or lowest of two or more competitive bids, or upon statements or estimates by one or more competent and disinterested persons, preferably reputable dealers or officials familiar with the type of property damaged, lost, or destroyed.

(b) If the property cannot be economically repaired, the measure of damages shall be the value of the property immediately prior to the incident less the value immediately after the incident. Estimates of value shall be made, if possible, by one or more competent and disinterested persons, preferably reputable dealers or officials familiar with the type of property damaged, lost, or destroyed.

(c) Loss of use of damaged property which is economically repairable may, if claimed, be included as an additional element of damage to the extent of the reasonable expense actually incurred for appropriate substitute property, for such period reasonably necessary for repairs, as long as idle property of the claimant was not employed as a substitute. When substitute property is not obtainable, other competent evidence such as rental value, if not speculative or remote, may be considered. When substitute property is reasonably available but not obtained and used by the claimant, loss of use is normally not payable.

## § 750.48 Measure of damages in injury or death cases.

(a) Where an injury or death arises within the United States or its territories, commonwealth, or possessions, determine the measure of damages under the law of the location where the injury arises.

(b) Where an injury or death arises in a foreign country and is otherwise cognizable and meritorious under this provision, damages will be determined in

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accordance with general principles of American tort law. The following is provided as guidance.

(1) *Measure of damages for overseas personal injury claims.* Allowable compensation includes reasonable medical and hospital expenses necessarily incurred, compensation for lost earnings and services, diminution of earning capacity, anticipated medical expenses, physical disfigurement, and pain and suffering.

(2) *Wrongful death claims arising in foreign countries.* (i) Allowable compensation includes that in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, burial expenses, loss of support and services, loss of companionship, comfort, society, protection, and consortium, and loss of training, guidance, education, and nurturing, as applicable.

(ii) The claim may be presented by or on behalf of the decedent's spouse, parent, child, or dependent relative. Claims may be consolidated for joint presentation by a representative of some or all of the beneficiaries or may be filed by a proper beneficiary individually.

## § 750.49 Delegations of adjudicating authority.

(a) *Settlement authority.* (1) The Secretary of the Navy may settle or deny claims in any amount. The Secretary may pay the first \$100,000.00 and report the excess to the Comptroller General for payment under 31 U.S.C. 1304. *See* 10 U.S.C. 2733(d).

(2) The Judge Advocate General has delegated authority to settle claims for \$100,000.00 or less.

(3) The Deputy Judge Advocate General, the Assistant Judge Advocate General (General Law), the Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Claims and Tort Litigation), and Head, Tort Claims Branch (Claims and Tort Litigation), have delegated authority to settle claims for \$25,000.00 or less, and have denial authority in any amount.

(4) Individuals with settlement authority under paragraph (a)(3) of this section may delegate all or part of their settlement authority. Such delegation must be in writing.

(b) *Appellate authority.* Adjudicating authorities have the same authority as

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delegated in paragraph (a) of this section to act upon appeals. No appellate authority below the Secretary of the Navy may deny an appeal of a claim it had previously denied.

[57 FR 4722, Feb. 7, 1992, as amended at 72 FR 53420, Sept. 19, 2007]

### § 750.50 Advance payments.

(a) *Scope.* This paragraph applies exclusively to the payment of amounts not to exceed \$100,000.00 under 10 U.S.C. 2736 in advance of submission of a claim.

(b) *Statutory authority.* Title 10 U.S.C. 2736 authorizes the Secretary of the Navy or designee to pay an amount not in excess of \$100,000.00 in advance of the submission of a claim to or for any person, or the legal representative of any person, who was injured or killed, or whose property was damaged or lost, as the result of an accident for which allowance of a claim is authorized by law. Payment under this law is limited to that which would be payable under the MCA (10 U.S.C. 2733). Payment of an amount under this law is not an admission by the United States of liability for the accident concerned. Any amount so paid shall be deducted from any amount that may be allowed under any other provision of law to the person or his legal representative for injury, death, damage, or loss attributable to the accident concerned.

(c) *Officials with authority to make advance payments.* (1) The Secretary of the Navy has authority to make advance payments up to \$100,000.00

(2) The Judge Advocate General has delegated authority to make advance payments up to \$100,000.00.

(3) The Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General (Claims and Tort Litigation) and the Head, Tort Claims Branch (Claims and Tort Litigation) have delegated authority to make advance payments up to \$25,000.00.

(4) Naval Legal Service Office commanding officers and the Officer in Charge, U.S. Sending State Office for Italy have delegated authority to make advance payments up to \$5,000.00.

(5) Officers in Charge of Naval Legal Service Office Detachments, when specifically designated by cognizant Commanding Officers of Naval Legal Service Offices; and the Staff Judge Advo-

cate at the U.S. Naval Station, Panama Canal have delegated authority to make advance payments up to \$3,000.00.

(6) Overseas commands with a Judge Advocate General's Corps officer or a judge advocate of the Marine Corps attached, have delegated authority to make advance payments up to \$3,000.00.

(d) *Conditions for advance payments.* Prior to making an advance payment under 10 U.S.C. 2736, the adjudicating authority shall ascertain that:

(1) The injury, death, damage, or loss would be payable under the MCA (10 U.S.C. 2733);

(2) The payee, insofar as can be determined, would be a proper claimant, or is the spouse or next of kin of a proper claimant who is incapacitated;

(3) The provable damages are estimated to exceed the amount to be paid;

(4) There exists an immediate need of the person who suffered the injury, damage, or loss, or of his family, or of the family of a person who was killed, for food, clothing, shelter, medical, or burial expenses, or other necessities, and other resources for such expenses are not reasonably available;

(5) The prospective payee has signed a statement that it is understood that payment is not an admission by the Navy or the United States of liability for the accident concerned, and that the amount paid is not a gratuity but shall constitute an advance against and shall be deducted from any amount that may be allowed under any other provision of law to the person or his legal representative for injury, death, damage, or loss attributable to the accident concerned; and

(6) No payment under 10 U.S.C. 2736 may be made if the accident occurred in a foreign country in which the NATO Status of Forces Agreement (4 U.S.T. 1792, TIAS 2846) or other similar agreement is in effect and the injury, death, damage, or loss

(i) Was caused by a member or employee of the DON acting within the scope of employment or

(ii) Occurred "incident to noncombat activities" of the DON as defined in § 750.43.

[57 FR 4722, Feb. 7, 1992, as amended at 72 FR 53421, Sept. 19, 2007]